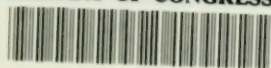


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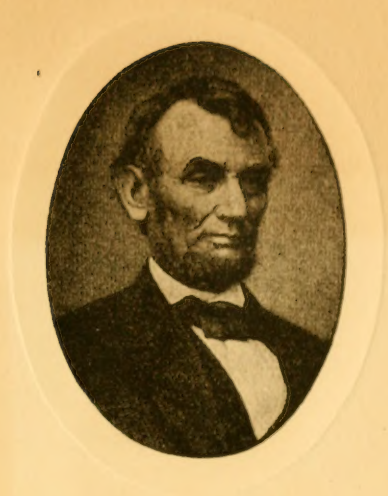
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The Autobiography of Abraham Lincoln



REPRODUCED BY EDWARD T. KELLY, WITH THE
PERMISSION OF THE HEIRS AND DESCENDANTS
OF JESSE W. FELL

the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a
wizzard. There was absolutely nothing to excite
ambition for education. Of course when I came of
age, I did not know much. Still somehow, I could
read, write, and cipher to the Rule of Three, but
that was all. I have not been to school since.
The little advance I now have upon this state of educa-
tion, I have have picked up from time to time under
the pressure of necessity.

I was raised to farm work, which I continued
till I was twenty-two. At twenty-two, I came to
Illinois, and passed the first year in Illinois
Macon County. Then I got ^{at that time} to New Salem (then
in Sangamon, now in Menard County, where I per-
maned a year as a sort of blacksmith
store. Then came the Black Hawk war,
and I was elected a Captain of Volunteers -
a success which gave me more pleasure
than any I have had since. I went the
campaign, was elected, ran for the Legislature the
same year (1832), and was beaten - the only time
I ever have been beaten by the people. The next,
and three succeeding biennial elections, I was elected
to the Legislature. I was not a candidate
afterwards. During this legislative period I had
studious hair, and removed to Springfield to
study, practiced it. In 1846 I was once elected
to the lower House of Congress. Was not a can-
didate for re-election. From 1849 to 1854, both

inclusion, practice has now announced that ever
before. Always a whig in politics, and generally
on the whig electoral ticket, making active cam-
paigns. I was losing interest in politics, when
the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused
me again. What I have done since then is
pretty well known.

If any personal description of me is thought ~~worth~~
desirable, it may be said, I am, in height, six
feet, four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing, on
an average, one hundred and eighty pounds; dark
complexion, with coarse black hair, and grey eyes.
No other marks or bands recollection.

Wm. J. W. Hall.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln



Washington. D.C. March 21. 1872
We the undersigned hereby certify that the
foregoing statement is in the hand
writing of Abraham Lincoln.

David Davis
Lyman Summell
Charles Sumner





